

SWOSU and Granna's Honored for Innovative Partnership

04.30.2009

Southwestern Oklahoma State University and Granna's of Bessie were recently recognized for their innovative partnership through the Oklahoma State Regents for Higher Education's Economic Development Grant for the Partnership Recognition Program. They were recognized recently at a reception in Oklahoma City. Pictured are (from left) Dr. Marvin Hankins, director of the SWOSU Center for Economic & Business Development; SWOSU President Dr. John Hays; Granna's Connie and Farrell Miller; and Lisa Snider, CEBD business development specialist.

Southwestern Oklahoma State University was among 21 institutions throughout the state recently recognized for their innovative partnership with community businesses through the Oklahoma State Regents for Higher Education's Economic Development Grant for the Partnership Recognition Program.

This program is designed to highlight successful partnerships between higher education institutions and businesses and to further cultivate the higher learning environment through State Regents' Economic Development Grants.

SWOSU's honoree for this award was Granna's food processing facility in Bessie. Granna's has had a long-term partnership with SWOSU's Center for Economic and Business Development through the Oklahoma Small Business Development Center and the Oklahoma Manufacturing Alliance.

Granna's is a U.S. Department of Agriculture food processing plant that currently employs around 30 people, producing a menu of 27 ready-to-serve entrees distributed to various community action programs throughout the state.

Instrumental to the success of SWOSU's partnership with Granna's has been the significant contributions from the team of student interns performing much of the behind-the-scenes research and preparation for the projects.

SWOSU and Granna's were recently honored at a reception held in Oklahoma City.

Institutions involved in these partnerships provide \$500 for tuition waivers to employees of the partnering businesses, internships for current students of the institutions to work at the partnering businesses, faculty externships with the partnering businesses, and/or enhancement of the partnership with additional equipment, materials or supplies. The State Regents provide a \$500 match to the waivers.